

Claims

1. A method of filtering messages received by a telecommunications device, the method comprising the steps of:-

- 5 a) inputting a rule set into the telecommunications device;
b) reading an incoming message;
c) modifying the message if that message breaks a rule of the rule set; and
d) displaying the modified message;

wherein the rule set comprises a plurality of rules, each of which relates
10 to a respective predetermined message content.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the message is a text message.

3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein step b) includes the step of parsing
15 the incoming test message.

4. A method as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3, wherein step c) is such as to delete
the predetermined text content, or to replace the letters of the predetermined text
content with meaningless characters.

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5. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein step a) is carried out
by downloading the rule set from a network operator.

25 6. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, further comprising the step of
modifying the rule set, by the user of a telecommunications device, to accommodate the
needs of that user.

30 7. A telecommunications device comprising a transceiver, a processor and a
display, the processor including software containing a rule set, means for reading an
incoming message, means for modifying the message if that message breaks a rule of
the rule set whereby a modified message is displayed, wherein the rule set comprises a
plurality of rules, each of which relates to a respective predetermined message content.

8. A device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the software is such that a user of the device can modify the rule set.

5 9. A device as claimed in claim 8, further comprising data input means linked to the processor for modifying the rule set.

10. A device as claimed in claim 9, wherein a keypad constitutes the data input means.

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11. A device as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 10, wherein, where the message is a text message, the software is such as to parse the incoming text message.

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12. A device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the software is such as to delete the predetermined text content, or to replace letters of the predetermined text content with meaningless characters.